

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 24, 2016 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:19

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Song leader | Neil McIver |
| Pianist | Dixon Cartwright |
| First sermon | Daniel Botha |
| Teen class—Library | Jeanine Case |
| Kids' class—Classroom #2 | Jennifer Danapas |
| Second sermon | Reg Killingley |

Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havir is leading an interactive Bible study in Lexington, Ky. (While Mr. Havir and other members of the congregation are spending time at social activities at a Winter Family Weekend in Lexington, he is conducting the study at a different location.)
2. Church social on Dec. 31—We are planning for a winter church social on Saturday evening, Dec. 31.
 - Steven Gibson will be a guest speaker
 - A potluck meal is scheduled
 - The parade of costumes will occur after the potluck
 - We have rented some bounce houses to be set up in the building
3. Joint baby shower on Jan. 8—There is a joint baby shower at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8. (Lis and Ryan Eaton are expecting a girl in February, and Celina and Mike Jitjaeng are expecting a boy in April.) There is no need to RSVP, but, if you have any questions, please contact Martha McIver.
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Christ and the Biblical Feasts" by Dave Havir.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "Did God Micromanage Jeroboam?" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 18 pages.

Prayer updates

Please remember **Willie Choate**, who is dealing with a reaction to taking chemotherapy.

Betty Foster (who was admitted to the Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview on Friday, Dec. 16, due to a UTI) went home last Sunday.

Please remember **Annette Payne**, who is dealing with a sore on her heel and a red streak on her ankle.

Please remember **Gracie Feaker**, who is dealing with some breathing challenges, a hurting ankle and some sleeping challenges.

New prayer requests

Paul Mulhare of Dumfries, Va., has been diagnosed with three broken vertebrae in his neck. To make matters worse, the screws used for repairs caused a tear in his esophagus (which became severely infected).

“Christ and the Biblical Feasts”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 24, 2016.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—In my Christian associations, I know quite a few saints who don’t observe Christmas. It would be a mistake for observers to conclude that those saints don’t believe in Jesus Christ.

The two main reasons that such people do not observe Christmas are (1) they believe that the Son of God was born in the autumn, and (2) they do not support the man-made traditions associated with the Christmas celebration.

But rest assured—my friends believe in God the Father and Christ the Son.

The purpose of this article is to discuss how Christ the Son is a central figure in the biblical feast days.

Our Passover

The first of the annual feast days is the Passover.

While the people in the Old Testament observed this festival with a lamb (Exodus

12:1-5), the New Testament Church of God has a superior Passover Lamb.

1 Corinthians 5:7—“For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”

1 Peter 1:19—“[We have been redeemed] with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

The symbols of the broken bread and the wine (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) remind believers that we are saved by grace.

Days of Unleavened Bread

The next annual feast days are called the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Since we are saved by grace, these days remind believers to consider their reaction to being saved by grace.

1 Corinthians 5:8—“Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

In Ephesians 2:8-9, the apostle Paul

described being saved by grace. In the next verse, he mentioned an appropriate reaction.

Ephesians 2:10—“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

In Titus 3:4-7, Paul described being justified by grace. In the next verse, he repeated an appropriate reaction.

Titus 3:8—“This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.”

Day of Pentecost

The next annual feast day is called the Day of Pentecost.

On this day in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit was given to Jewish converts. (Later, in Acts 10:44-45, the Holy Spirit was given to gentile converts.)

Paul called Christ the firstfruit (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23) and mentioned that there would be other firstfruits at His coming.

Paul described the Holy Spirit as a “seal” and a “deposit” (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

Feast of Trumpets

The next annual feast day is called the Feast of Trumpets. This day describes the return of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52—“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17—“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Day of Atonement

The next annual feast day is called the Day of Atonement. This day reminds people that Christ is the High Priest.

In Old Testament times, the high priest

went into the Holy Place to offer a sacrifice for himself and for the people (Leviticus 16:1-19 and Hebrews 9:7).

The book of Hebrews explains how the greatness of Christ’s sacrifice (Hebrews 9:24-26).

Feast of Tabernacles

The next annual feast days are called the Feast of Tabernacles. These days picture the millennial reign of Christ.

To accomplish a time of peace, the book of Revelation describes the dragon being bound for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).

The book of Revelation also mentions that those individuals in the first resurrection will reign with Christ during 1,000 years (verse 6).

Eighth Day

The next annual feast day is called the Eighth Day. This day pictures the time beyond the Millennium.

The book of Revelation mentions that there will be a judgment before a great white throne (Revelation 20:11-12).

The book of Revelation also mentions a new heaven, a new earth and a New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-2). At that time, the tabernacle of God will be with mankind in a spectacular manner (verse 3).

The apostle John described the blessing upon mankind.

Revelation 21:4—“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Notice how God the Father places great emphasis upon Christ the Son.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28—“Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For ‘He has put all things under His feet.’ But when He says ‘all things are put under Him,’ it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.”

“Did God Micromanage Jeroboam?”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 24, 2016.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Bible students like to discuss God’s involvement in the selection and behavior of civil leaders. In the previous three articles, we discussed three Old Testament leaders who were chosen by God.

The three examples demonstrate that, even when God does choose a person to lead nations, He generally does not micromanage the actions of that leader.

Although I was not originally planning to talk about Jeroboam, his story is enlightening to this conversation.

Previous three leaders

When we recollect about the three leaders from the three previous weeks (Saul, David and Solomon), we remember a few similarities.

- God micromanaged in choosing each of them.

- But God did not micromanage in forcing them to be obedient.

A new twist

Although those two factors are true about Jeroboam, there was a new factor involving him.

- God micromanaged in choosing Jeroboam.

- God did not micromanage in forcing Jeroboam to be obedient.

- But God did micromanage in causing a separation involving the nation of Israel.

The separation

Notice the words of the prophet Ahijah to Jeroboam concerning the northern 10 tribes.

1 Kings 11:31-35—“And he said to Jeroboam, ‘Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: “Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the

city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David. However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. But I will take the kingdom out of his son’s hand and give it to you—ten tribes.’”

Notice Ahijah’s words to Jeroboam concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

1 Kings 11:36—“And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there.”

When Jeroboam proceeded with the plan to assume control of the northern 10 tribes, Rehoboam of Judah assembled an army and was ready to fight (1 Kings 12:21).

Notice God’s words from Shemaiah to Rehoboam.

1 Kings 12:23-24—“Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: “You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me.”’”

Jeroboam’s sins

It is interesting to note that God initially offered blessings to Jeroboam if he was obedient (1 Kings 11:38).

However, the Bible described the reign of King Jeroboam as very negative (2 Kings 17:20-23). Many of the kings who followed him were mentioned as following in the sins of Jeroboam.